THE AASK DATABASE V3.0: A Database of Human Experience In Evacuation Derived from Air Accident Reports.

E.R.Galea, K.Finney, A.Dixon, D.Cooney and A.Sidiqui.
Fire Safety Engineering Group
University of Greenwich
London SE10 9SL, UK
http://fseg.gre.ac.uk

This paper describes recent developments concerning the Aircraft Accident Statistics and Knowledge (AASK) database. The AASK database is a repository of survivor accounts from aviation accidents developed by the Fire Safety Engineering Group of the University of Greenwich – with support from the UK CAA. Its main purpose is to store observational and anecdotal data from the actual interviews of the occupants involved in aircraft accidents. It was initially envisaged as an aid to the development of the airEXODUS aircraft evacuation model where insight was required into how people actually behaved during evacuation from survivable aircraft crashes. In addition, the database has wider application to other areas of aviation safety.

Access to the current release of the database (AASK V3.0) is available over the internet. AASK consists of information derived from both passenger and cabin crew interviews, information concerning fatalities and basic accident details. Also provided with AASK is the Seat Plan Viewer which graphically displays the starting locations of all the passengers – both survivors and fatalities - as well as the exits used by the survivors. Data entered into the AASK database was extracted from the transcripts supplied by the Air Accident Investigation Branch in the UK and the National Transportation Safety Board in the US. The quality and quantity of the data was very variable ranging from short summary reports of the accidents to boxes of individual accounts from passengers, crew and investigators. Data imported into AASK V3.0 comprises information from:

? ? 55 accidents,
? ? 1295 individual passenger records from survivors,
? ? 110 records referring to cabin crew interview transcripts, and
? ? 329 records of fatalities (passenger and crew).